

Brian Jenvold
Multnomah Democrats PCP
Asst. District Leader, HD 46

February 13, 2023

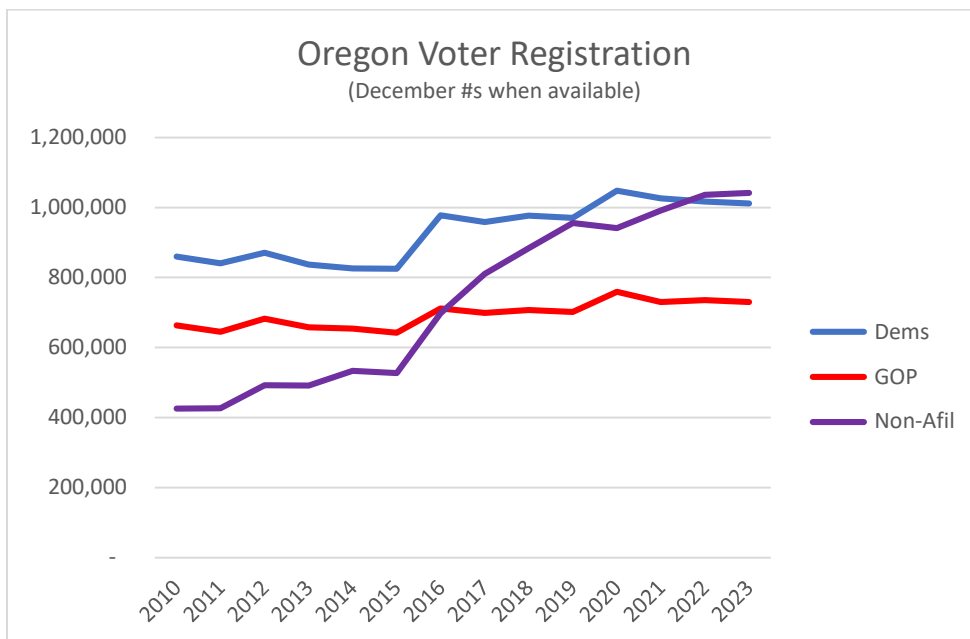
Chair Fahey, Chair Breese Iverson, and Members of the Committee:

I'm honored to serve as a PCP for the Multnomah County Democrats, with whom I serve as the leader of the Elections Integrity & Governance study group which closely follows bills like HB 2107. According to the MultDems Planks 7 & 8 of Article VIII:

- 'We support government policies and practices that motivate voter participation and education...'
- 'We support voting methods and oversight that ensure equitable, fair, and honest—ballot counting, redistricting decisions, updating of voter rolls, in-person voting, and paper ballots'

It is because of these two planks that I support HB 2107. I believe the best, most equitable outcomes comes from the participation of more individuals vs less and I believe this bill will help expand access, to a long underrepresented and far too often neglected population. According to initial studies from the Secretary of State's office, this bill will potentially give 171,000 (nearly the population size of the cities of Salem and/or Eugene OR) Oregon citizens convenient access to their constitutionally promised right to vote.

Oregon's automatic voter registration law (HB2177) in my opinion has been a great success. And initially I have to say I was shocked by the number of people opting to oppose this logical next step... until I looked at the numbers...



Shortly after it's 2016 adoption the number of Non-Affiliated Voters quickly surpassed the number of registered Republicans in the state and have even recently overtaken the Democrats as the #1 largest "party" in the State (when people register via DMV, they aren't enabled to select a party). This (near doubling) over half-a-million increase in Non-Affiliated voters since the end of 2015 can almost be entirely attributed thanks to Oregon's automatic voter registration law. And after 2020 when Non-Affiliated voters not only outnumbered Republicans in number eligible voters but also came within 75,000 actually returned ballots, must have set off alarms for the party that prefers narrowing the voter pool over offering the populous the most-convincing arguments/solutions.

Since the implementation of Oregon's automatic voter registration law, we the MultDems have made a concerted effort to reach-out to those new Non-Affiliated voters in order give people the opportunity adopt a political party affiliation (ideally Democrat). (assuming I'm reading it correctly) I am glad to see HB 2107 gives the potential registrants this ability immediately upfront.

For these reasons, I strongly encourage your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian Jenvold".

Brian Jenvold,
Multnomah Democrats Asst. District Leader, HD 46